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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

MARIANNE UDOW
DIRECTOR

June 16, 2005

The Honorable Bill Hardiman, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Rick Shaffer, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Hardiman and Representative Shaffer:

Section 547 of 2004 Public Act 344 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to report on the implementation of a plan to review each court order placing a child in foster care within 60 days to verify federal compliance. The following information outlines our review plan implementation activities.

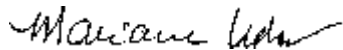
The development of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) for the Title IV-E Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the Single Audit, have been key parts to the anticipated response to this boilerplate requirement. Previous updates indicated that the PIP and CAP were being developed.

1. The CFSR PIP was submitted to, and approved by, Health and Human Services (HHS) on November 11, 2004.
 - a. Children's Foster Care Policy Item 902-2 clarifies that Title IV-E eligibility cannot begin before the reasonable efforts finding with documentation has been obtained in local offices.
 - b. L-letter 05-050 was issued April 21, 2005, listing further actions that local office supervisors are to take to comply with the timely and accurate review of all court orders for Title IV-E eligibility. This requires the use of the "Title IV-E Case Reading" form (DHS 436) and the use of the "Check Sheet Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility" document (DHS 416). Local office supervisors are also required to submit copies of the check sheets along with a biweekly report to their zone office to verify activities. The zone offices review and forward the biweekly reports to the Foster Care program office.
 - c. L-letter 05-050 also instructs supervisors to review all court orders along with the eligibility determination documents at case opening, or by the 30th day following the child's out-of-home placement.

- d. Local offices share this information with all local staff responsible for determining Title IV-E eligibility.
 - e. Progress reports for the CFSR PIP are submitted on a quarterly basis to comply with boilerplate requirements.
2. Single Audit CAP update was submitted January 3, 2005.
- a. Modifications to our Children's Services automated information system for Foster Care, Adoption and Juvenile Justice (SWSS-FAJ) were implemented to assure proper eligibility is determined.
 - b. Children's Foster Care Policy Item 901-7 has been added to assure accuracy of funding determination.
 - c. Training has been provided for workers and supervisors by DHS, and the State Court Administrator has provided training for local court administrators.
 - d. Children's Foster Care Policy CFF 722-10 has been added to ensure compliance with permanency hearings.

I assure you we are actively pursuing compliance with all federal Title IV-E eligibility requirements.

Sincerely,



Marianne Udow

C: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
State Budget Office